

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 240850Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9679

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

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US MISSION GENEVA FOR PHELAN

GENEVA PASS USDEL MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD EFIS KS JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE RESTRAINTS ON KOREAN EXPORTS

SUMMARY: ROKG-GOJ AGREE ON LOOSE, INFORMAL ESTRRAINT ON KOREAN EXPORTS OF KIMONO CLOTH TO JAPAN. OTHER CURRENT PROBLEMS INCLUDE RAW SILK AND TUNA SALES. ROKG BEGINNING SHOW CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF GROWING PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN JAPAN. END SUMMARY

1. VISIT OF GOJ DELEGATION LAST WEEK PRODUCED VERBAL AGREEMENT ON PART ROKG TO INFORMALLY RESTRAIN EXPORTS OF OSHIMA TSUGUMI KIMONO CLOTH TO JAPAN TO ABOUT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL (APPROXIMATELY 40,000 ROLLS WITH VALUE OF \$7 MILLION.) HOWEVER, ROKG REPORTEDLY DECLINED GOJ
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PROPOSAL THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS HOLD REGULAR MEETINGS

TO EXCHANGE STATISTICS AND DISCUSS PROBLEMS IN
TEXTILE TRADE.

2. OTHER AREAS WHERE SOME GOJ RESTRICTIVE ACTIONS
CURRENTLY IN EFFECT INCLUDE RAW SILK AND TUNA SALES.
UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN MARCH ON TUNA SALES, LIKE
ARRANGEMENT ON KIMONO CLOTH, GENERALLY VIEWED AS
POLITICAL GESTURE FOR JAPANESE DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION
THAT EXPECTED TO HAVE MINIMAL PRACTICAL EFFECT.
ESSENTIALLY, KOREANS HAVE AGREED TRY TO REDUCE
INSTANCES OF KOREAN VESSELS CALLING DIRECTLY IN
JAPANESE PORTS TO SELL CATCH. PROBLEM COMPLICATED
BY FACT MANY OF THESE VESSELS ARE FORMER JAPANESE
VESSELS OPERATED BY KOREAN FIRMS UNDER MARKETING
ARRANGEMENTS WITH JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS.

3. SILK PROBLEM MORE SERIOUS. GOJ STATE TRADING
AGENCY, WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN TEMPORARY IMPORT
MONOPOLY, STOPPED IMPORTING RAW SILK LAST AUGUST
WHEN DOMESTIC PRICE DECLINED BELOW CUT-OFF POINT.
AFTER TAKING SOME ADDITIONAL IMPORTS IN FEBRUARY,
EMBARGO ON IMPORTS HAS BEEN RESUMED. ROKG CONSIDER-
ING TAKING ISSUE TO GATT IF SATISFACTORY SOLUTION
NOT REACHED BY TIME IMPORT MONOPOLY FOR STATE
TRADING AGENCY DUE EXPIRE MAY 31.

4. WHILE NOT UNDULY ALARMED OVER SPECIFIC GOJ
ACTIONS TO DATE, ROKG IS BEGINING SHOW CONCERN
OVER REPORTS OF GROWING PROTECTIONIST SENTIMENT IN
JAPAN, PARTICULARLY IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY. ANY FURTHER
APPROACH BY GOJ FOR AD HOC RESTRAINTS LIKELY TO
MEET INCREASINGLY STIFF OPPOSITION. WITH TRADE
DEFICIT OF \$1.2 BILLION WITH JAPAN IN 1974 (EXPORT,
F.O.B., IMPORT, C.I.F. BASIS), PRESSURES ON ROKG
TO RETALIATE AGAINST IMPORTS FROM JAPAN WOULD BE
VERY STRONG.
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